CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus for opening and closing a portal [having first and second ends] in a structure, comprising[, in combination]:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins [of said] defining opposing sides of the portal;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of [the] said lateral margins, with said first end of said curtain being fixedly attached [across said] adjacent the portal [at] along a first end thereof, said second end of said curtain folded back on itself to define a pocket opening [toward said] towards the first end of the portal;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) varying means operatively connected to said second end of said curtain for varying the height of said pocket; and

e) means for magnetically urging said pocket [toward] towards said lateral margins, wherein said means for magnetically urging comprises a magnetic member mounted to each opposing end of said first rod to hold each said opposing end of said rod against a lateral margin.

Claim 2 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface and said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnet operatively mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod.

Claim 3 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein each said magnetically attractable support surface comprises a metal strip affixed to each said lateral margin.

Claim 4 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein each at least one magnet is operatively mounted within each said opposing end of said first rod.

Claim 5 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein each at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod.

Claim 6 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 5 further comprising a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod, each said housing assembly having said at least one magnet connected thereto.

Claim 7 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said at least one magnet is a cylindrical magnet having a central bore mounted for rotation about a mounting rod passing therethrough.

Claim 8 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a plurality of cylindrical magnets, each said magnet having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about said mounting rod passing therethrough.

Claim 9 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a first pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about a first mounting rod passing therethrough and a

second pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment about a second mounting rod passing therethrough.

Claim 10 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 8 further comprising at least one cylindrical spacer member interposed between two adjacent cylindrical magnets.

Claim 11 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein each said magnet housing assembly has an inclined upper surface.

Claim 12 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising means for guiding said opposing ends of said first rod along a path generally parallel to the plane of said lateral margins.

Claim 13 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 12 wherein said means for guiding comprises opposing channel members.

Claim 14 (currently amended). [Apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising] An apparatus for opening and closing a portal in a structure, comprising:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins defining opposing sides of the portal;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of said lateral margins, with said first end of said curtain being fixedly attached adjacent the portal along a first end thereof, said second end of said curtain folded back on itself to define a pocket opening towards the first end of the portal;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) varying means operatively connected to said second end of said curtain for varying the height of said pocket;

e) a second elongated rod supported on and separated from said first elongated rod by said second end of said curtain[, wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface and said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnet operatively connected to each opposing end of said second rod.]; and

f) means for magnetically urging said pocket towards said lateral margins, wherein said means for magnetically urging comprises a magnetic member mounted to each opposing end of said second rod to hold each said opposing end of said second rod against a lateral margin.

Claim 15 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 14 wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface and said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnet operatively connected to each said opposing end of said second rod, wherein each at least one magnet is operatively mounted within said second rod.

Claim 16 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 14 wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface and said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnet operatively connected to each said opposing end of said second rod, wherein each at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to said second rod.

Claim 17 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 16 further comprising a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said second rod, each said housing assembly having said at least one magnet connected thereto.

Claim 18 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 17 wherein said at least one magnet is a cylindrical magnet having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about a mounting rod passing therethrough.

Claim 19 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a plurality of cylindrical magnets, each said magnet having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about said mounting rod passing therethrough.

Claim 20 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a first pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about a first mounting rod passing therethrough and a second pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment about a second mounting rod passing therethrough.

Claim 21 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 19 further comprising at least one cylindrical spacer member interposed between two adjacent cylindrical magnets.

Claim 22 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 17 wherein each said magnet housing assembly has an inclined upper surface.

Claim 23 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 14 further comprising means for guiding said opposing ends of said second rod along a path generally parallel to the plane of said lateral margins.

Claim 24 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 23 wherein said means for guiding comprises opposing channel members.

Claim 25 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnetic strip affixed to each said lateral margin.

Claim 26 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus for opening and closing a portal [having first and second ends] in a structure, comprising[, in combination]:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins [of said] defining opposing sides of the portal, wherein each of said lateral [margin] margins has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of [the] said lateral margins, with said first end of said curtain being fixedly attached [across said] adjacent the portal [at] along a first end thereof, said second end of said curtain folded back on itself to define a pocket opening [toward said] towards the first end of the portal;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) varying means operatively connected to said second end of said curtain for varying the height of said pocket; and

e) means for magnetically connecting opposing ends of said first rod to said lateral margins, wherein said means for magnetically connecting comprises a magnetic member mounted to each opposing end of said first rod to hold each said opposing end of said first rod against a lateral margin.

Claim 27 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 26 wherein said means for magnetically connecting comprises at least one magnet rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod.

Claim 28 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 27 wherein said means for magnetically connecting further comprises a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod.

Claim 29 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus for opening and closing a portal [having first and second ends] in a structure, comprising[, in combination]:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins [of said] defining opposing sides of the portal, wherein each of said lateral [margin] margins has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of [the] said lateral margins, with said first end of said curtain being fixedly attached [across said] adjacent the portal [at] along a first end thereof, said second end of said curtain folded back on itself to define a pocket opening [toward said] towards the first end of the portal;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) varying means operatively connected to said second end of said curtain for varying the height of said pocket;

e) a second elongated rod supported on and separated from said first elongated rod by said second end of said curtain; and

f) means for magnetically connecting opposing ends of said second rod to said lateral margins, wherein said means for magnetically connecting comprises a magnetic member mounted to each opposing end of said second rod to hold each said opposing end of said second rod against a lateral margin.

Claim 30 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 29 wherein said means for magnetically connecting comprises at least one magnet rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said second rod.

Claim 31 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 30 wherein said means for magnetically connecting further comprises a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said second rod.

Claim 32 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus for opening and closing a portal [having first and second ends] in a structure, comprising[, in combination]:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins [of said] defining opposing sides of the portal, wherein each of said lateral [margin] margins has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of [the] said lateral margins, with said first end of said curtain being fixedly attached [across said] adjacent the portal [at] along a first end thereof, said second end of said curtain

folded back on itself to define a pocket opening [toward said] towards the first end of the portal;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket, said first rod having opposing ends;

d) varying means operatively connected to said second end of said curtain for varying the height of said pocket; and

e) at least one magnet operatively connected to each said opposing end of said first rod to hold each said opposing end of said first rod against a lateral margin with said at least one magnet providing discrete areas that contain sufficient magnetic flux density to retain each said end of said first rod to said magnetically attractable surface of said lateral margin.

Claim 33 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 32 wherein said at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to said first rod.

Claim 34 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 33 wherein said at least one magnet is cylindrical.

Claim 35 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus for opening and closing a portal [having first and second ends] in a structure, comprising[, in combination]:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins [of said] defining opposing sides of the portal, wherein each of said lateral [margin] margins has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of [the] said lateral margins, with said first end of said curtain being fixedly attached [across said]

adjacent the portal [at] along a first end thereof, said second end of said curtain folded back on itself to define a pocket opening [toward said] towards the first end of the portal;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) varying means operatively connected to said second end of said curtain for varying the height of said pocket;

e) a second elongated rod supported on and separated from said first elongated rod by said second end of said curtain; and

f) at least one magnet operatively connected to each opposing end of said second rod to hold each said opposing end of said second rod against a lateral margin with said at least one magnet providing discrete areas that contain sufficient magnetic flux density to retain each said end of said second rod to said magnetically attractable surface of said lateral margin.

Claim 36 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 35 wherein said at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to said second rod.

Claim 37 (currently amended). [Apparatus] An apparatus as defined in claim 36 wherein said at least one magnet is cylindrical.

Claim 38 (new). An apparatus for opening and closing a portal in a structure, comprising:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins defining opposing sides of the portal, wherein each of said lateral margins comprises a magnetically attractable material;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of said lateral

margins, with said first end of said curtain being fixedly attached adjacent the portal along a first end thereof, said second end of said curtain folded back on itself to define a pocket opening towards the first end of the portal;

c) varying means operatively connected to said second end of said curtain for varying the height of said pocket; and

d) an elongated rod having a magnetic member mounted to each opposing end of said rod to hold each said end of said rod against a lateral margin, wherein said curtain is between said rod and said lateral margins.